

Report to the Iowa General Assembly
Collaboration and Teambuilding
2008

Prepared by

Iowa Board of Physician Assistants - Iowa Board of Medicine

Pursuant to

Iowa Code Chapter 148C

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Joint Report to the Iowa General Assembly 2008

The Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and Iowa Board of Medicine share a common purpose to protect the public. Board members are appointed by the Governor of the State of Iowa to license applicants and impose licensee discipline as authorized by law.

Board powers are conferred by the Iowa Legislature. In 2007, the Legislature passed a bill to amend Iowa Code Chapter 148C by creating a new section that requires the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and the Iowa Board of Medicine to provide a joint report to the Governor and General Assembly by January 31 of each year detailing the boards' collaborative efforts and teambuilding practices. This report highlights primary activities undertaken in 2007 to achieve this purpose.

On July 18, 2007, the Iowa Board of Medicine hosted a breakfast meeting for members of both boards, administrative staff, and the Director of the Iowa Department of Public Health's Division of Administration and Professional Licensure. The meeting was prefaced with remarks by the Chairpersons of the Iowa Board of Medicine and Iowa Board of Physician Assistants. This event achieved the purposes of acquainting the respective board members, providing a venue for informal discussion about issues of common interest, and informing the board members and staff about legislative priorities.

In summer and fall 2007, the Iowa Boards of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and the Dental Board collaborated with the Bureau of Professional Licensure, including the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants, to propose technical changes to Iowa Code Chapter 147, *Health Related Professions*. Over the course of several months the boards identified multiple opportunities to eliminate outdated language, clearly articulate current practice, and streamline the statute that describes and provides authority to the professional boards. Both the Board of Physician Assistants and the Board of Medicine, with input from the respective professional associations and key stakeholders, participated in preparing a bill for consideration during the 2008 legislative session.

In fall 2007 the Iowa Boards of Medicine, Physician Assistants, Nursing and Pharmacy joined together in a shared commitment to improve pain management services for all Iowa residents. This initiative entailed consideration by each board of a Joint Statement on Pain initiated by the Iowa Board of Medicine. On October 17, 2007, the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants agreed by consensus to support the intent and content of a joint statement outlining actions health care practitioners should take, within their respective legal scopes of practice, to effectively assist patients in managing their pain.

The Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and Iowa Board of Medicine hold regularly scheduled public meetings in accord with their mission to protect the public through licensing, rulemaking, and discipline. Meeting agendas are posted on the Internet in accord with Iowa's Open Meetings Law, as set forth in Iowa Code Chapter 21. This practice assures that members of the professional boards remain informed about current and emerging issues impacting the practice of their respective licensees.

In 2008, the Boards will seek additional opportunities to promote public protection through collaborative activities and teambuilding practices.